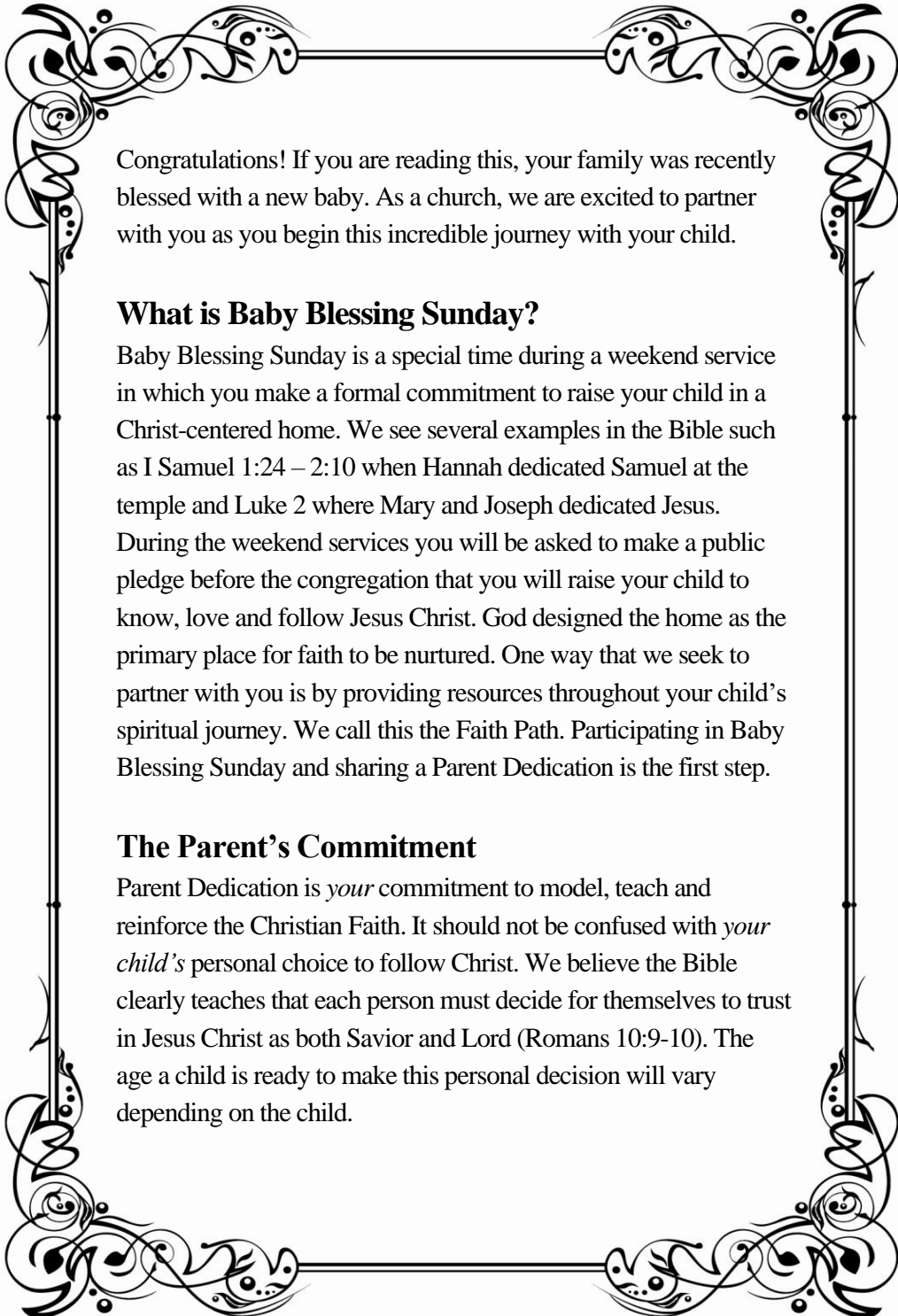




FAITH PATH

Parent Dedication

**Commit to Raise Your
Child in a God-Honoring Home**



Congratulations! If you are reading this, your family was recently blessed with a new baby. As a church, we are excited to partner with you as you begin this incredible journey with your child.

What is Baby Blessing Sunday?

Baby Blessing Sunday is a special time during a weekend service in which you make a formal commitment to raise your child in a Christ-centered home. We see several examples in the Bible such as I Samuel 1:24 – 2:10 when Hannah dedicated Samuel at the temple and Luke 2 where Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus. During the weekend services you will be asked to make a public pledge before the congregation that you will raise your child to know, love and follow Jesus Christ. God designed the home as the primary place for faith to be nurtured. One way that we seek to partner with you is by providing resources throughout your child's spiritual journey. We call this the Faith Path. Participating in Baby Blessing Sunday and sharing a Parent Dedication is the first step.

The Parent's Commitment

Parent Dedication is *your* commitment to model, teach and reinforce the Christian Faith. It should not be confused with *your child's* personal choice to follow Christ. We believe the Bible clearly teaches that each person must decide for themselves to trust in Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10). The age a child is ready to make this personal decision will vary depending on the child.

The Church's Commitment

Parent Dedication is also a time for the church to commit to walk alongside you as you point your child toward Christ. You will receive a Faith Path guide to provide ideas each step of the way, from birth to age eighteen.

Parent Dedication Steps

1. Sign up for Baby Blessing Sunday at the Welcome In-counter or online.
2. Fill out your Family Faith Plan that will be provided at Parent Dedication.
3. Participate in the upcoming Baby Blessing Weekend Celebration.

Parent Dedication Celebration Ideas

Ideas for making dedication a special time include...

- Have a dinner or celebration time with family and friends before/after the weekend service.
- Invite family members and special family friends to write blessings to your child to put in a keepsake or Faith box. Make sure that you write one too!
- Record a video message for your child to view in the future. Speak words of affirmation, sharing how you are praying for their spiritual journey and how you desire to point them toward Christ. Put the video in your child's Keepsake or Faith Box. You can also write a letter if that works better for you.

Intentional Faith Path Plan

Child's Name: _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for my child.
- Attend church regularly.
- Consistently spend time in God's Word.
- _____

The next step on the Faith Path is *Blessing*, recommended at age three. We will offer a free *Blessing* kit to guide you. Request the *Blessing* kit at Columbuscoc.com/faithpath

Recommended Resources

Focus on the Family Complete Guide to Baby and

Child Care by Paul C. Weisser

The Ministry of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson

The Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian

Columbus Church of Christ Ministries

Faith @ Home · Columbuscoc.com/faithathome